

Message Text

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STATE-AID MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EFIN, JM, XL
SUBJECT: GOJ PREPARATIONS FOR THE CARIBBEAN GROUP AND COORDINATION
OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY: SENATE FLETCHER CALLED A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF DONOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE
CARIBBEAN GROUP TO DISCUSS THE JUNE 19 WASHINGTON MEETING AND
TO INITIATE A PROCESS OF GOJ COORDINATION OF EXTERANL
ASSISTANCE. PART OF HIS HIDDEN AGENDA WAS TO ELICIT CRITICISMS
OF GOJ INEFFICIENCIES, MANY OF WHICH HE IS AWARE, IN USING
EXTERNAL RESOURCES AS A WAY OF STRENGTHENING HIS HAND IN
SEEKING INTERNAL REMEDIES. ALTHOUGH THIS OBJECTIVE WAS NOT
ACHIEVED, THE MEETING WAS A USEFUL FIRST STEP TOWARD BADLY
NEEDED COORDINATION BY THE GOJ OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE.

1. IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR RICHARD FLETCHER'S INVITATION,
REPRESENTATIVES OF FIFTEEN COUNTRIES AND DONOR ORGANIZATIONS
MET ON JUNE 7 TO DISCUSS THE JUNE 19 WASHINGTON MEETING OF THE
CARIBBEAN GROUP FOR CO-OPERATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CG).
ATTENDEES WERE FROM THE OAS, UNDP, CANADA, UK, NETHERLANDS,
EEC, U.S., IDB, JAPAN, ISRAEL, MEXICO, GERMANY, FRANCE
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AND VENEZUELA. THE AMBASSADOR AND USAID DIRECTOR REPRESENTED
THE U.S. OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALSO ATTENDED.

2. FLETCHER STATED THAT JAMAICA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CG
WAS PART OF ITS EFFORT TO MEET ITS NEEDS FOR MAXIMUM EXTERNAL
ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL HELP. HE HOPED THAT THE

CG WAS NOT MERELY AN EXERCISE IN ASSISTANCE CONSOLIDATION BUT THAT IT WOULD RESULT IN NET NEW ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. HE WAS NOT GIVEN CLEAR ASSURANCES ON THIS POINT BY THE DONOR REPRESENTATIVES.

3. FLETCHER INDICATED THAT THE MEETING WAS THE FIRST STEP IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH DONORS, IN ONE-ON-ONE OR SMALLER GROUPS, DESIGNED TO UPGRADE GOJ MANAGEMENT OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. HE STATED THAT THE GOJ DID NOT HAVE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON WHAT EACH DONOR WAS DOING AND NEEDED SUCH MATERIAL, AS PART OF GOOD MANAGEMENT AND IN PREPARATION FOR THE CG MEETING.

4. FLETCHER STRESSED THE NEED FOR SOME MECHANISM FOR FINANCING LOCAL PROJECT COSTS. HE SAID THAT IN THINKING ABOUT THE CG MEETING, THE GOJ WOULD FOCUS ON REGIONAL PROJECTS, PROJECTS FOR JAMAICA, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. HE EMPHASIZED JAMAICA'S NEED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WHICH PROVIDED PROJECT MANAGERS AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND REFERRED TO THE SHORTAGE OF TRAINED MANAGERS, A PROBLEM EXASPERBATED BY THE "BRAIN DRAIN."

5. FLETCHER STATED THAT AT THE CG MEETING, THE GOJ WOULD INDICATE WHAT ASSISTANCE IT NEEDED AND WANTED, INCLUDING ITS URGENT REQUIREMENTS TO GET THROUGH 1978. HE HOPED TO PRESENT RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION WHICH WOULD DRAW HEAVILY ON THE WORLD BANK'S STAFF WORK. HE REFERRED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THREE WORLD BANK DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING 2041-CRB, 2050-JM) AND REPEATEDLY REMARKED THAT WORLD BANK PAPERS WOULD BE THE BEST BRIEFING PREPARATION FOR THE CG MEETING.

6 THE FIVE YEAR PLAN, AS SUCH, WOULD NOT BE READY. HOWEVER, THERE WOULD BE A MACRO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, INCLUDING MATERIAL ON THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT PROGRAM COVERING THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD WHICH COINCIDED WITH THE GOJ/IMF AGREEMENT.

7. THE UNDP REPRESENTATIVE SHARED INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS AS TO THE AGENDA FOR THE DAYS JUNE 19-23. HE DISTRIBUTED A PAPER ON UNDP ACTIVITIES IN JAMAICA AND ASKED FOR COPIES OF SIMILAR DESCRIPTIONS FROM THE OTHER DONORS.

8. A FEW OF THOSE PRESENT (EEC, DUTCH AND UNDP REPS) OFFERED ONE ILLUSTRATION EACH OF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING THEIR ASSISTANCE. THIS SUBJECT WAS NOT PURSUED. THOSE DONORS WE TALKED WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING (BRITISH, DUTCH, CANADIAN) AGREED THAT THE JUNE 7 MEETING WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR FRANK DISCUSSIONS OF GOJ INADEQUACIES AND

THAT WE COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN ONE-ON-ONE INFORMAL
SESSIONS WITH FLETCHER.

9. ON JUNE 8, FLETCHER'S OFFICE SET UP A MEETING FOR
JUNE 12 WITH USAID REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS WAYS OF
IMPROVING GOJ IMPLEMENTATION PERFORMANCE ON USAID ACTIVITIES.
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